

**From:** [Scott Couch](#)  
**To:** [Billington, Tracie;](#)  
**CC:**  
**Subject:** Fwd: I oppose the Monte Rio Sewer Project  
**Date:** Monday, December 11, 2006 3:24:27 PM  
**Attachments:**

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Scott B. Couch, P.G.  
State Water Board - Div. of Financial Assistance  
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916-341-5658, [scouch@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:scouch@waterboards.ca.gov)

>>> "Psyche" < > 12/11/2006 3:22:09 PM >>>  
Dear Mr Scott Couch,

This sewer project continues to go up and up and up - now they're asking for ~\$17million for 400 parcels and 200 vacant lots. That's ~\$30,000 each! I just bought a home in the Russian River area and there is no way I could afford this sewer project. It would cause me to sell and leave the area. I know most people here are lower income and would have the same problem. Take a drive through Monte Rio. This is not exactly a wealthy town - the roads are falling apart and people live in falling down homes that are 50+ years old in a flood zone. Mud is everywhere and homes are in poor shape.

On top of the outrageous costs involved, there is no proof that these 400 septic systems are polluting the water and that a sewer system is needed! This entire sewer project is a scam and being pushed on the people of Monte Rio by the county and contractors involved. They wanna make millions and saddle a few hundred people that are barely making it as is with the costs. The basis for this project has no support and is illogical. Who ever heard of such a crazy sewer system? It doesn't make any sense at all. The plans are not well thought out.

As an example of some of the poorly thought out plans: It was proposed to take part of Sheridan Ranch by eminent domain and to build the sewer plant here. Problem is the piece of land they attempted to take (the case went to court and wasted tons of taxpayer dollars) was in a flood zone. This land is not considered buildable and the Sheridan Ranch owners had tried several times to get permission to build a house on the land and were denied by the county. If a house cannot get approval due to flooding, how can someone propose to build a sewage plant/treatment center? What happens when it floods? What happens when the power goes out? And people can't get their sewage out of their homes? And after the 2 week limit, they are evicted from their homes for not having a working sewage system?

Someone is behind this sewage project and they are not looking out for the people of Monte Rio. They are focused on greed and politics. Anyone with half a brain could see the plans don't make any sense. The cost is not justifiable. Someone cooked up a half-thought out plan with no plans made for real-life conditions. They need to go back to the drawing board on this one. But first, they need to PROVE there is a need for this system! I haven't seen any evidence at all that there is a need for a sewer system. All of us on septic systems maintain our systems and have been doing just fine for years. Please, let us alone to try and live our lives in peace!

Please help us stop this system now.

Thanks,

Psyche Ives

